

The Sayings Of Jesus On The Cross

Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:34

- Facing death, Jesus still cared for sinful men.
- Isaiah said that Jesus would make intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).
- This prayer was spoken for the same heart that prayer for unity in John 17:20-22.
- Jesus' dying prayers were for unity and forgiveness. How do we do in fulfilling those prayers?!

Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:43

- The thief to whom this was spoken was one of the earliest believers of Jesus. He *may have* even understood the nature of the Lord's kingdom (Luke 23:42).
- In contrast the other thief rudely rebelled against Him (Luke 23:39).
- Hebrews 9:16, 17 need to be coupled with the account of the thief on the cross!
- These words comforting on two levels. (1) He was promised a place in paradise, and (2) he was told his pain would end that day.

Woman behold thy son! The saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!

John 19:26, 27

- Jesus showed love and concern for Mary.
- Women played an important roll in the life and ministry of Jesus.
- These words stress the spiritual nature of God's family (Matthew 12:48-50; Mark 3:33-35).

Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?

Matthew 27:46

- These words are quoted from Psalm 22:1. The fuller context of Psalm 22:1 should be explored—the Psalmist is feeling helpless.
- Jesus' humanity is seen in this cry.

I thirst.

John 19:28

- See Psalm 69:21.
- "Thirst was one of the most distressing circumstances attending the crucifixion. The wounds were highly inflamed, and a raging fever was caused, usually, by the sufferings on the cross, and this was accompanied by insupportable thirst" (Barnes via e-sword).
- Jesus was human (Hebrew 4:15). He wept (John 11:35). He was hungry (Matthew 25:35, 42).

It is finished.

John 19:30

- "The sufferings and agonies in redeeming man are over. The work long contemplated, long promised, long expected by prophets and saints, is done. The toils in the ministry, the persecutions and mockeries, and the pangs of the garden and the cross, are ended, and man is redeemed. What a wonderful declaration was this! How full of consolation to man" (Barnes via e-sword).

- Jesus' ministry was about 3 years; His death on the cross lasted 6 hours, but the plan to redeem man was born in the Mind of God in the beginning (Ephesians 3:11).

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:46

- Jesus still relied on God's protection. Consider this when viewing Matthew 27:46.
- God marked the death of Jesus with great wonders (Matthew 27:45-52). The Father was very near to Jesus.

The Description of Crucifixion

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What is crucifixion? A medical doctor provides a physical description: The cross is placed on the ground, and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy square wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly but to allow some flex and movement. The cross is then lifted into place.

The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with the both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain—the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of the feet.

As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen.

Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down the rough timber. Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart.

It is now almost over—the loss of tissue fluids reaches a critical level—the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues—the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air.

He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues—finally he can allow his body to die. All this the Bible records with the simple words, “And they crucified him” (Mark 15:24).